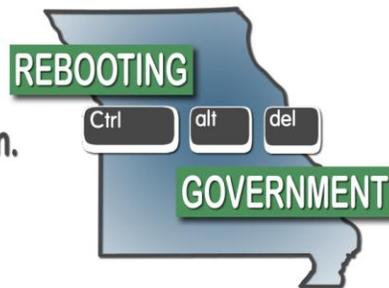


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 16, 2010

Senate to Take Missourians' Ideas on How to Reboot State Government to the Next Level

Senate Leader Announces Working Groups to Review Cost-Saving Ideas

JEFFERSON CITY – Having invited Missourians to share their ideas on how to reboot Missouri state government, Senate Leader Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, today announced a new program where senators will take those ideas to the next level. The program, part of the Senate's "[Rebooting Government](#)" efforts, will consist of a full day set aside for working groups of senators to review the more than 500 ideas submitted to date. Shields said senators will be tasked to review and discuss those ideas, and then submit at least five ideas they agree on to be introduced in legislation or the budget process.

"It's a process we have never done before, but we are in unprecedented times," Shields said. "The Senate will be engaged in evaluating all the ideas that have been submitted, plus the many other ideas that continue to be brought forward. Missourians have thoughtful ideas on how to make state government more consumer-friendly, streamlined, and cost-effective, and we're not only listening – we plan to act on those ideas."

The Senate's working group day will be Tuesday, March 23. Groups of four senators will meet to examine ideas in the following categories: Agriculture/Outdoors/Department of Natural Resources, Courts/Legal/Department of Public Safety, Education, General Government/Office of Administration, Retirement, Social Programs, Tax Structure, and Transportation.

The groups will meet at the same time on Tuesday upon morning session adjournment. Public notices will be posted relaying the location where each group is meeting. Public testimony will not be taken, but all working groups are open to the public.

Shields said this is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to truly examine and reshape every aspect of state government that could set Missouri on a sustainable, long-term path.

"Missouri is facing an on-going budget crisis that is expected to last through 2013 or 2014," Shields said. "We cannot sustain the size and scope of government as we know it. We must think outside the box and consider every possible way to make government smaller and more efficient – whether that is through more control, alterations or deletions."

Missourians can continue to submit their ideas by visiting the Senate's website (www.senate.mo.gov) and clicking on the [Rebooting Government](#) logo. Submissions may be anonymous. Ideas will continue to be accepted throughout the legislative session.

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List of Working Groups and the senators in each(in alphabetical order):

Agriculture/Outdoors/Department of Natural Resources

Sen. Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring
Sen. Dan Clemens, R-Marshfield
Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia
Sen. Wes Shoemyer, D-Clarence

Courts/Legal/Department of Public Safety

Sen. Matt Bartle, R-Lee's Summit
Sen. Jack Goodman, R-Mt. Vernon
Sen. Jolie Justus, D-Kansas City
Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter

Education

Sen. Rita Days, D-St. Louis
Sen. David Pearce, R-Warrensburg
Sen. Gary Nodler, R-Joplin
Sen. Yvonne Wilson, D-Kansas City

General Government/Office of Administration

Sen. Tim Green, D-St. Louis
Sen. Jim Lembke, R-St. Louis
Sen. Luann Ridgeway, R-Smithville
Sen. Carl Vogel, R-Jefferson City

Retirement

Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau
Sen. Jane Cunningham, R-Chesterfield
Sen. John Griesheimer, R-Washington
Sen. Joe Keaveny, D-St. Louis

Social Programs

Sen. Joan Bray, D-St. Louis
Sen. Norma Champion, R-Springfield
Sen. Scott T. Rupp, R-Wentzville
Sen. Eric Schmitt, R-Glendale

Tax Structure

Sen. Tom Dempsey, R-St. Charles
Sen. Brad Lager, R-Savannah
Sen. Chuck Purgason, R-Caulfield
Sen. Robin Wright-Jones, D- St. Louis

Transportation

Sen. Kevin Engler, R-Farmington
Sen. Ryan McKenna, D-Crystal City
Sen. Delbert Scott, R-Lowry City
Sen. Bill Stouffer, R-Napton

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